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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JC-20131-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IEPA/416)
International application No. PCT/KR2003/001596	International filing date (day/month/year) 08 AUGUST 2003 (08.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 10 AUGUST 2002 (10.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 F16L 37/12		
Applicant JEONG, Chang-Log		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 MARCH 2004 (09.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 26 NOVEMBER 2004 (26.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer YOON, Song Hoon Telephone No. 82-42-481-5415 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/001596

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed." and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/001596

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1: JP 2000-310372 A (NIPPON KOKAN PIPE FITTINGS MFG CO. LTD) 07 November 2000
D2: JP 2001-146991 A (HIGASHIO MECH CO. LTD, INOUE SUDARE KK) 29 May 2001
D3: JP 2002-174383 A (NIPPON KOKAN PIPE FITTINGS MFG CO. LTD) 21 June 2002

1. Novelty

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to a pipe fitter clamp fixedly installed between a female bracket and a male bracket.

The pipe fitter clamp of claim 1 comprised of a ring shape body having at least one allowance slit; at least one allowance slit extension portion protruding from the body to have an extended allowance slit.

D1-D3 relate to a pipe fitter clamp installed between a female bracket and a male bracket.

The pipe fitter clamp of D1-D2 include a ring shape body having allowance slit, and the pipe fitter clamp of D3 includes a ring shape body having protrusions.

However, D1-D3 differ from the present invention since D1-D3 do not have allowance slit extension portions and extended allowance slits.

Therefore, the subject matter of the claim 1 of the present invention is considered new under PCT Article 33(2). As dependent claims, the subject matter of the claims 2-6 is considered new as well under PCT Article 33(2).

2. Inventive Step

As it is mentioned above, the technical features of the present invention, "the allowance slit extension portion and extended allowance slit" are not found in D1 and D2.

As the extended allowance slits provide sufficient elasticity, the number of the allowance slit can be reduced so that the contact area of a pipe is increased. Thus the pipe fitter clamp having extended allowance slits provides stability and a firm holding force.

A person skilled in the art would not be led from D1-D3 each of in combination of D1-D3 toward the same composition as the invention defined by claims 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 1-6 is considered to involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3).

3. Industrial Applicability

The present invention can be used in the pipe joint industry for providing a pipe fitter clamp that have a more firm holding force.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 1-6 is considered to be industrially applicable under PCT Article 33(4).